

**STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

# **Jacobs Press Release**

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## **SENATOR JACOBS RECRUITS MATH & SCIENCE TEACHERS FOR MICHIGAN'S FUTURE New Legislation Targets Teacher Shortage**

LANSING – Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs today introduced legislation (SB1201) that would create the Capital Target Education Act to establish a student loan forgiveness program for new math and science teachers. The program would address the increased demand for math and science teachers created by the recently approved curriculum standards.

“Michigan has a math and science teacher shortage,” Jacobs said. “Our new curriculum standards will exacerbate this problem if we don’t act. We need 21<sup>st</sup> Century solutions, and I will be recruiting private interests to help fund this very important program.”

The Capital Target Education Act would be administered by the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority.

To qualify for a grant to defray loan expenses, individuals must have graduated in the top 25 percent of their class between 2008 and 2018; be a legal resident teaching full time in Michigan; and not previously defaulted or be currently in default on a student loan. In addition, applicants must have obtained and continued employment as a full-time high school teacher after the effective date of this act; be endorsed or certified in math and/or science; submit a grant application to the authority; and meet any other requirements established by the authority.

The authority would award a portion of the grant in an amount equal to 10 percent of that eligible debt in each consecutive year teaching in Michigan. Eligible debt would include all unpaid federal and state student loans obtained by an individual during his/her first five years enrolled in a teacher education program at a public or private college or university or community college up to a total of \$25,000.

Each individual accepting a grant from the authority will be required to sign an affidavit affirming that 100% of grant money received will be applied to their student loan within thirty days of receipt.

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*State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.*